

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
June 1, 2005**

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos County Fire Department) reported that the recent inputs of precipitation and cooler weather have maintained the regional fire hazards at low levels.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) has begun fieldwork to assess the fire hazards in the Los Alamos region. Randy also referred to a LANL News Bulletin article that discussed the potential hazards from falling trees during periods with high winds. Outdoor workers and those participating in outdoor recreation activities, such as hiking, biking and jogging are potentially at risk.

Ed Hoth (Utilities and Infrastructure, LANL) announced that most of the signs identifying fire roads and firebreaks have been installed.

Manny L'Esperance (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) has been collaborating with Bandelier National Monument to remove hazard trees near the ice rink. Manny also announced that both of the fires burning in the Jemez Mountains have been contained.

Phil Taylor (Los Alamos County Emergency Management) is the contact for the County Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings that occur weekly. Those who wish to attend the meetings or make a brief presentation can obtain more information from Phil at 663-3511.

The Climate Assessment for the Southwest project (CLIMAS), located at the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, University of Arizona, reports through its May 2005 Outlook that hydrological drought conditions in the southwest have improved because of the spring snowmelt that feeds the reservoirs. During the past 30 days, temperatures have been generally cooler than average and precipitation has been above average in northern New Mexico. The summer season forecasts indicate slightly increased chances of above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation. For more information, see <http://www.ispe.arizona.edu/climas/forecasts.html>

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, June 15, at TA-21, Building 210 in the ENV-ECO (Ecology Group) Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 505-665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.